

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected.

No claims have been allowed.

Claims 1-20 have been cancelled.

New Claims 21-40 have been added.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following arguments.

In Sections 3 and 4 of the December 30, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-7 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,085,085 to *Blakeney* (hereafter, simply "*Blakeney*") in view of United States Patent No. 5,548,818 to *Sawyer* (hereafter, simply "*Sawyer*"), United States Patent No. 6,021,328 to *Curtis* (hereafter, simply "*Curtis*"), and United States Patent No. 6,188,897 to *Nelson* (hereafter, simply "*Nelson*"). In Section 5 of the December 30, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 8-10 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sawyer* in view of *Curtis* and *Nelson*. In Section 6 of the December 30, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sawyer* in view of *Curtis* and *Nelson* and further in view of *Blakeney*.

The Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections of Claims 1-20 are moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 1-20.

The Applicants have replaced cancelled Claims 1-20 with new Claims 21-40 in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the Applicants' invention. However, new Claims 21-40

are analogous to many of cancelled Claims 1-20. For example, new independent apparatus Claim 21 is analogous to cancelled independent apparatus Claim 17. Similarly, new independent method Claim 31 is analogous to cancelled independent method Claim 1.

SUMMARY

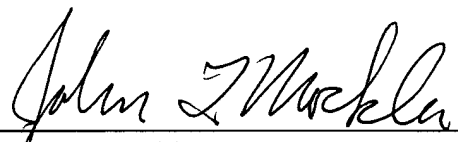
The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of pending claims and that this application be passed to issue. If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *jmockler@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,
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